

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-09 DODE-00 EB-07 IO-13 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 R

DRAFTED BY INT/DOTA:RSCOTT:HB

APPROVED BY INT/DOTA:ERICE

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R 290238Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

UNCLAS STATE 187604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APOL, TQ

SUBJECT: SCRAP POLICY: A. TTPI NO. 503, AND, B. HICOM-
TERPACIS LTR TO DOTA DTD MAY 6, 1976.

DOTA NO. 375-TT

1. PER REF A, BE ADVISED DOTA HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED
DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND NAVY ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED IN
REF B.

2. PENDING RESPONSES FROM STATE AND NAVY, DOTA REVIEW AND
RESEARCH INTO REF B QUESTIONS REVEALS FOLLOWING:

A. JAPANESE SALVAGE RIGHTS.

APRIL 18, 1969, EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN U.S. AND JAPAN
ACCORDS GOVT OF JAPAN AND ITS NATIONALS FOR A PERIOD OF
THREE YEARS FROM DATE ON WHICH ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY MAY
COMMENCE PURCHASING JAPANESE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED
FOR BY MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS AGREEMENT, OPPORTUNITY TO
SALVAGE AND FREELY DISPOSE OF SHIPS SUNK IN TERRITORIAL
WATERS OF TTPI WHICH WERE OF JAPANESE NATIONALITY AT TIME OF
SINKING. DOTA FILES INDICATE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY CLEAR-
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ED TO COMMENCE PURCHASES IN SEPTEMBER 1974. ALTHOUGH THERE

IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY EXTENSION OF THIS PERIOD, STRICT
INTERPRETATION OF

NOTE CONTINUES JAPANESE SALVAGE OPPORTUNITY UNTIL SEPT
1977.

B. NAVY CLAIMS TO OWNERSHIP.

AS OF MAY 21, 1976, NAVY RETAINED OWNERSHIP OF ALL SUNKEN
SHIPS IN BIKINI ATOLL AND THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN
NAVY'S POLICY OF REFUSING TO GRANT SALVAGE RIGHTS OR TO
AUTHORIZE PRIVATE SALVAGE ATTEMPTS ON VESSELS WHICH WERE
SUNK WITH UNEXPENDED MUNITIONS AND FUEL ABOARD OR WHERE
A POTENTIAL RADIATION HAZARD EXISTS.

3. DOTA COMMENT. WITH REGARD TO SALVAGE OF SUNKEN JAPA-
NESE SHIPS, ASSUME YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF GRANTING ANY
PERMITS FOR SALVAGE OF SHIPS IN TRUK LAGOON.

DOTA SENDS.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SALVAGE, SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE187604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RSCOTT:HB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760292-1260
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976078/aaaaagwy.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN INT
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCRAP POLICY: A. TTPI NO. 503, AND, B. HICOM- TERPACIS LTR TO DOTA DTD MAY 6, 1976. DOTA NO. 375-TT
TAGS: PFOR, TQ, US, JA
To: HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006